

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, CGEN (SCHNEIER, ARTHUR) (DORN, FRANCIS E.)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL BY APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION OFFICIALS

REFS: A) STATE 199905, B) MOSCOW 13627

1. SUMMARY -- APPEAL OF COUNCIL FOUNDATION OFFICIALS
RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER AND EX-CONGRESSMAN FRANCIS E.
DORN VISITED USSR AGUST 24-29 EN ROUTE TO MUKACHEVO FOR VISIT
TO JEWISH CEMETERY THERE. THEY KEPT EMBASSY INFORMED OF
MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENTAL AND CHURCH OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW
AND REPORTED ON STATUS OF MUKACHEVO CEMETERY PROBLEM.
SCHNEIER AND DORN RECEIVED NO ENCOURAGEMENT FROM
AMBASSADOR TO THEIR RENEWED PROPOSAL FOR EXTENDING OFFICIAL
US INVITATION TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR COUNCIL OF CHURCH AFFAIRS TITOV.
END SUMMARY.

2. USSR VISIT

RABBI ARTHUR SCHNEIER AND FORMER CONGRESSMAN FRANCIS E.
DORN, PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE APPEAL OF
CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION, ACCOMPANIED BY RABBI SCHNEIER'S
DAUGHTER, KAREN, MRS. DORN, AND THEIR PHYSICIAN, DR.
VITO GUONDO, ARRIVED IN MOSCOW FROM BUCHAREST ON
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AUGUST 24 AND REMAINED UNTIL AUGUST 29, WHEN THEY TRAVEL-

LED TO UZHGOROD IN ZAKARPATSKAYA OBLAST FOR VISITS TO MUKACHEVO CEMETERY AND YASINA, VILLAGE OF SCHNEIER'S FOREBEARS WHOM HE USED TO VISIT AS A BOY. THE GROUP PLANNED TO DEPART UZHGOROD FOR BUDAPEST BY TRAIN ON AUGUST 31 OR SEPTEMBER 1.

3. MUKACHEVO CEMETERY PROBLEM

DURING THEIR MOSCOW STAY, RABBI SCHNEIER AND EX-CONGRESSMAN DORN VISITED THE AMBASSADOR ON AUGUST 25 AND 27, AND INTER ALIA, DISCUSSED THE STATUS OF THE MUKACHEVO CEMETERY PROBLEM. THEY STATED THAT DESPITE THEIR BEST EFFORTS, THEY HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO RESOLVE THE MUKACHEVO CEMETERY PROBLEM SATISFACTORILY. THIS, THEY SAID, DESPITE THE FACT THAT DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS TITOV HAS ALLEGEDLY GONE OUT ON A LIMB TO ASSIST (ACCORDING TO RABBI SCHNEIER, TITOV HAS HELPED TO THE EXTENT OF EXTENDING THE DATE OF THE "LIQUIDATION" OF THE CEMETERY FROM 1975 TO THE END OF 1976). WHAT RABBI SCHNEIER IS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH IS TO GET THE AUTHORITIES TO SOFTEN THEIR INSISTENCE THAT ONLY THE REQUESTS OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS FOR EXHUMATION AND TRANSFER OF REMAINS OF PERSONS BURIED IN MUKACHEVO CAN BE HONORED. VIRTUALLY ALL IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS WERE DONE AWAY WITH AT AUSCHWITZ, SAID THE RABBI. THEREFORE, WHAT RABBI SCHNEIER IS TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH IS TO GET THE AUTHORITIES TO HONOR THE REQUESTS OF MORE DISTANT RELATIVE SURVIVORS FOR TRANSFER OF THE REMAINS AND IN THE MEANTIME TO EXTEND THE DATE OF "LIQUIDATION" UNTIL THIS CAN BE ARRANGED. HE BELIEVES THAT THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE IS THE LOCAL UKRAINIAN OFFICIALS. RABBI SCHNEIER SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE BEST POSSIBILITY FOR RESOLVING THE ISSUE SATISFACTORILY WOULD BE A JOINT REPRESENTATION BY THE AMBASSADOR AT THE MFA AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT WITH DOBRYNIN. SUCH A DOUBLE-BARREL EFFORT TOGETHER WITH THE EXTENSIVE SUPPORT THAT RABBI SCHNEIER CLAIMS TO BE GETTING FROM TITOV ON THE MATTER WOULD BE HIS BEST HOPE FOR SUCCESS. THE AMBASSADOR BELIEVED THAT THIS COULD BE DONE AND SUGGESTED THAT RABBI SCHNEIER ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

4. EVALUATION OF MOSCOW VISIT

AT THEIR REQUEST, RABBI SCHNEIER AND EX-CONGRESSMAN DORN WERE NOT ACCOMPANIED BY EMBASSY OFFICERS DURING THEIR CALLS ON SOVIET OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW. THEY WERE ECSTATIC AT THE TREATMENT THEY RECEIVED DURING

THEIR MEETINGS WITH THOSE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS TITOV, USA INSTITUTE'S SCIENTIFIC SECTION MEMBER E.A. IVANYAN, AND THE PATRIARCHATE. THEY ATTRIBUTED THIS TO THE FACT THAT THE SOVIET HEIRARCHY HAS GIVEN THEM CREDIT FOR THE INCIDENT-FREE RECEPTION IN NEW YORK ACCORDED THE RECENT SOVIET CHURCH DELEGATION.

5. PROPOSED TITOV VISIT TO U.S.

RABBI SCHNEIER RENEWED TO THE AMBASSADOR A PROPOSAL HE HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE IN THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INVITE TITOV TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT. SCHNEIER EXPLAINED THAT TITOV HAS TRIED TO BE VERY HELPFUL IN SUCH MATTERS AS THE MUKACHEVO CEMETERY PROBLEM (SEE ITEM 2 ABOVE) AND APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO TITOV'S DESIRE TO VISIT THE U.S. AS A GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIAL, TITOV STATED THAT THE ONLY WAY HE COULD ACCEPT SUCH A TRIP WOULD BE IF IT WERE OFFICIALLY PROFERRED. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT HE DOUBTED IF THE US COULD OFFICIALLY INVITE TITOV, BECAUSE TYPE OF CONTROL HIS OFFICE IMPOSED ON SOVIET CHURCHES HAS NO COUNTERPART IN US AND IS ABHORRENT TO U.S. RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND CLERGY. THE AMBASSADOR STATED, HOWEVER, THAT IF TITOV WERE INVITED BY APPEAL OF CONSCIENCE FOUNDATION OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE RELIGIOUS GROUPING, SOME WAY MIGHT BE FOUND FOR AN OFFICIAL TO ENDORSE THE VISIT. RABBI SCHNEIER STATED THAT SUCH AN ENDORSEMENT WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT, THAT TITOV COULD MAKE THE VISIT ONLY IF OFFICIALLY INVITED. THE AMBASSADOR THEN SUGGESTED THAT SCHNEIER TAKE THE MATTER UP AGAIN WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

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